

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for providing a multimedia service in a mobile terminal, comprising:

5 a main controller for controlling a call setup operation between the mobile terminal and a base station;

a codec for coding an audio signal output from a microphone and decoding a received audio signal;

a display for outputting image data;

10 a display driver for driving the display;

a multimedia service processor; and

an image processor for buffering information received from the main controller and the multimedia service processor, converting the buffered information according to an output mode of the display and providing the converted information to the display driver;

15 wherein said multimedia service processor upon receipt of a multimedia service request, accesses a corresponding server and sends a data request to the server, outputs received image data through the image processor, outputting received menu and character information data to the main controller, and outputs received audio data through the
20 codec.

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image processor comprises:

a first buffer for buffering data received from the main controller;

25 a second buffer for buffering data received from the multimedia service processor;

a sync generator for providing vertical and horizontal sync signals to the display

driver; and

a digital-to-analog (D/A) converter for converting digital data output from the first and second buffers to an analog signal.

5 3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an image switching section interposed between the display driver and the image processor, for optionally providing the display driver with image data output from of the multimedia service processor or external image data.

10 4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an audio switching section interposed between the multimedia service processor and the codec, for optionally providing audio data output from the main controller or audio data output from the multimedia service processor to the codec.

15 5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the multimedia service processor comprises:

a data buffer for buffering data received from the main controller;

an image buffer for buffering image data out of the data received from the main controller and outputting the buffered image data to the image processor;

20 a storage for storing a multimedia service program, information generated during the multimedia service and information needed to access the server; and

a multimedia service controller for controlling the data and image buffers and the storage, and performing a multimedia service operation.

25 6. A method for providing a multimedia service in a mobile terminal including a main controller for controlling a call setup operation between the mobile terminal and a base station; a codec for coding an audio signal output from a microphone

and decoding a received audio signal; a display for outputting image data; a display driver for driving the display; an image processor for buffering information received from the main controller and a multimedia service processor, converting the buffered information according to an output mode of the display and providing the converted information to the display driver; and said multimedia service processor, at a multimedia service request, accessing a corresponding server and sending a data request to the server, outputting received image data through the image processor, outputting received menu and character information data to the main controller, and outputting received audio data through the codec, the method comprising the steps of:

upon receipt of the multimedia service request, connecting, through the multimedia service processor, a call through the main controller and accessing the corresponding server;

after completing the access, sending, through the multimedia service processor, a multimedia information request to the server and sending a receive request to the main controller according to the information request;

upon receipt of the requested information, sending, through the main controller, the corresponding information to the multimedia service processor; and

analyzing, in the multimedia service processor, the information to provide the information to the main controller if the information is character or menu information, to output the information through the image processor if the information is image data, and to output the information through the codec if the information is audio data.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the step of outputting the information through the image processor comprises the step of:

upon receipt of the image data, buffering the received image data for a predetermined time and providing the buffered image data to the image processor; and

converting, in the image processor, the buffered image data to an analog image

signal and outputting the converted analog image signal to the display through the display driver.

8. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the receive request according to the information request includes size information, and upon receipt of the size information, the main controller sends the corresponding information to the multimedia service processor.

9. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the step of outputting the information through the image processor comprises the steps of:

upon receipt of an image output request, when an output mode of the display is in a menu output mode or a character information output mode, sending a mode switching request to the image processor; and

sending the image data to the image processor according to the mode switching request and outputting the image data through the display.

10. The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of turning off, through the main controller, the multimedia service processor and releasing a connection with the base station, upon receipt of a multimedia service end request.